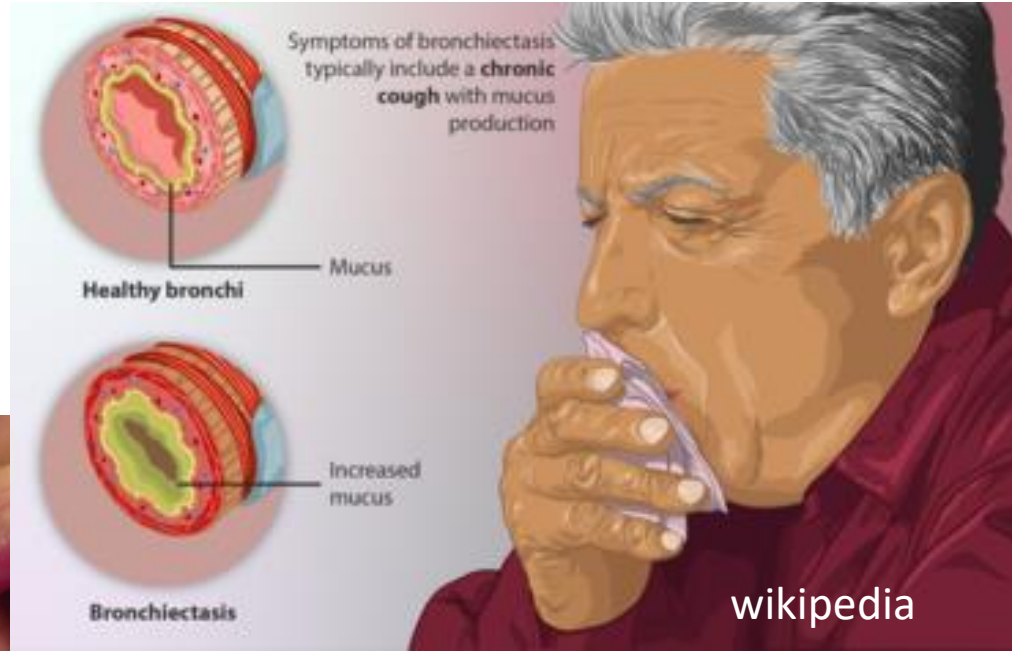


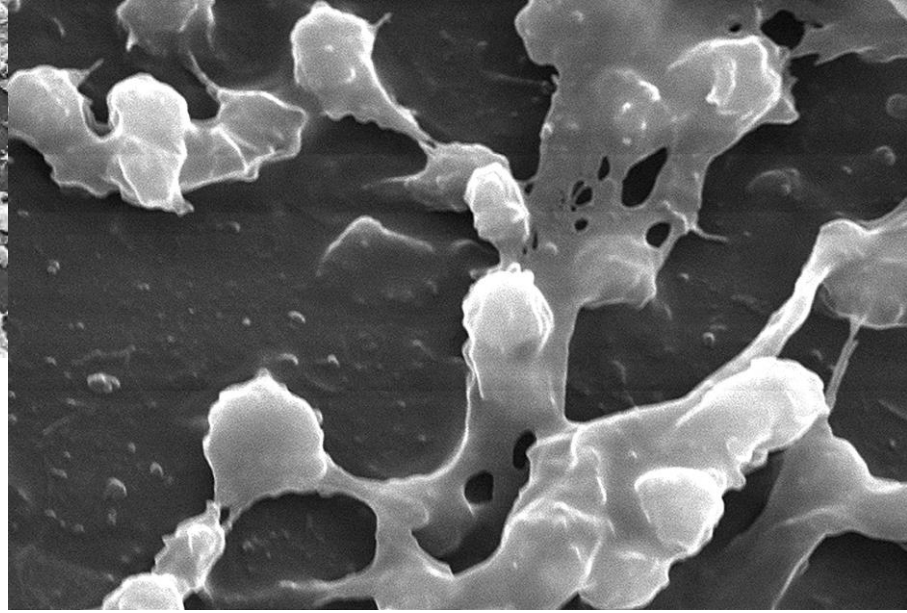
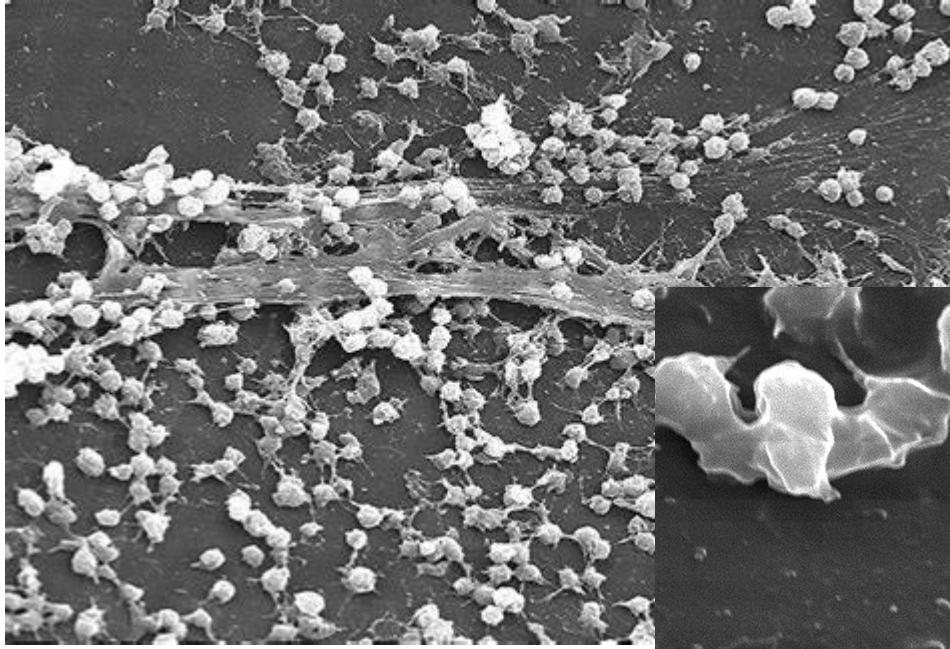
A close-up photograph of a petri dish held by a hand wearing a blue nitrile glove. The petri dish contains a yellowish agar medium with several distinct bacterial growth patterns. On the left side, there are several small, circular, yellowish colonies. On the right side, there are several elongated, parallel streaks of bacterial growth, which are characteristic of biofilm formation. The background is blurred, showing a laboratory setting with various equipment and containers.

# Line infections and other biofilm-associated infections

Dr Angharad Davies

Clinical Associate Professor/Hon. Consultant Microbiologist





- Prosthetic heart valve
- Vascular grafts
- Joint prostheses
- Intravascular lines
- VP shunts

**BIOMATERIALS  
ACCUMULATE  
BIOFILM -  
INFECTION RISK**

# Antibiotic resistance in biofilm

- Reduction of antibiotic susceptibility by x 10-1000 based on MIC

## WHY?

?biofilm prevents penetration of antibiotic

?biofilm slows down antibiotic distribution

?biofilm inactivates antibiotics

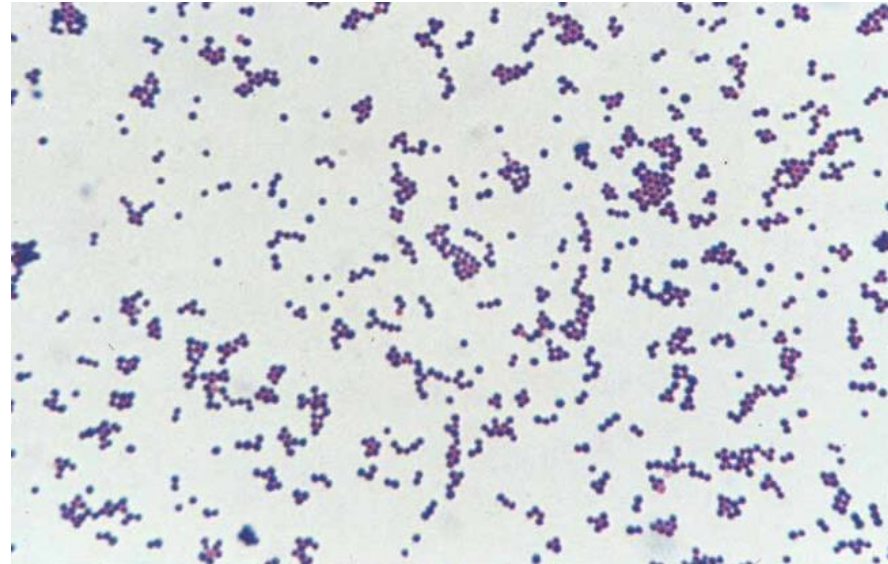
**Biofilm organisms are metabolically down-regulated**

# Some pathogens which commonly produce biofilm

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Coagulase negative staphylococci
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- *Candida sp*
  
- Also *E. coli/Klebsiella*
- *Enterococcus*

# Staphylococci

- Staphylococci
  - GPC in clusters
  - Coagulase positive – *S. aureus*
  - Coagulase negative staphylococci



## Coagulase tubes

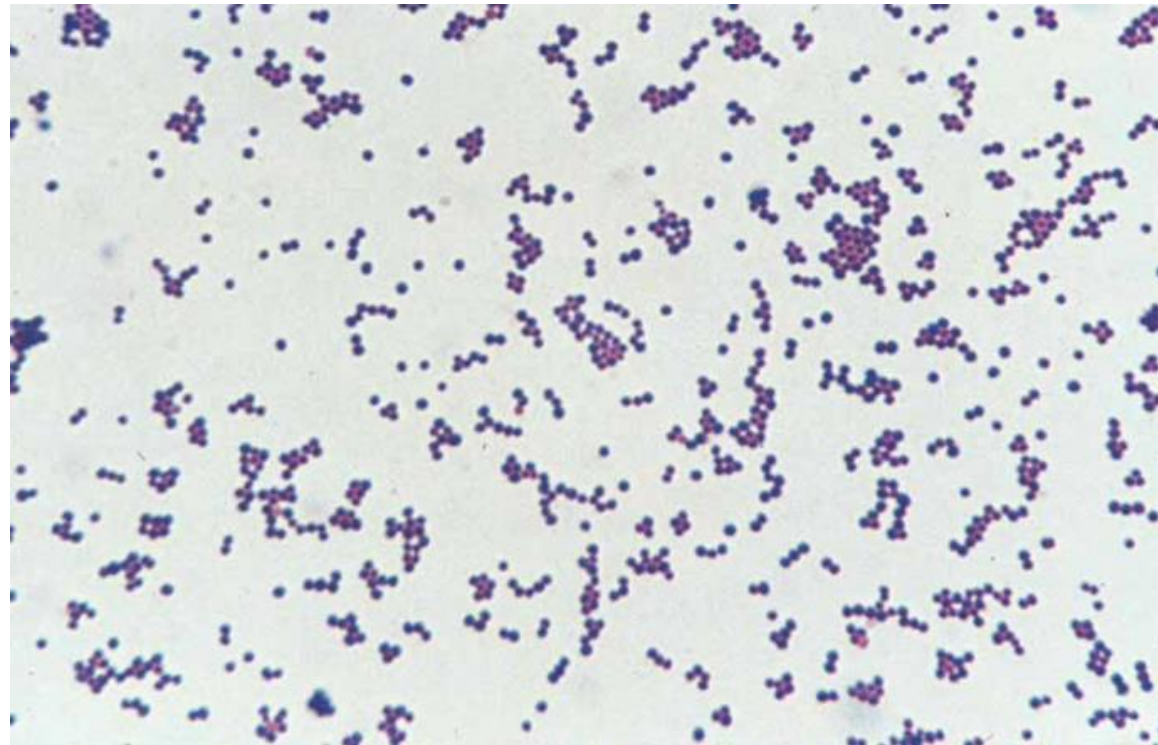
*Staphylococcus  
epidermidis*

*Staphylococcus  
aureus*

[The Virtual Edge \(uwyo.edu\)](http://uwyo.edu)



*S. aureus*



- *S. aureus* is a commensal of ~30% humans
- Can be highly pathogenic – many virulence factors
- Can cause infections of skin, soft tissues, bone, heart valves, joints, biomaterials/lines, abscesses...
- Have a tendency to seed distantly and recur later if not adequately treated

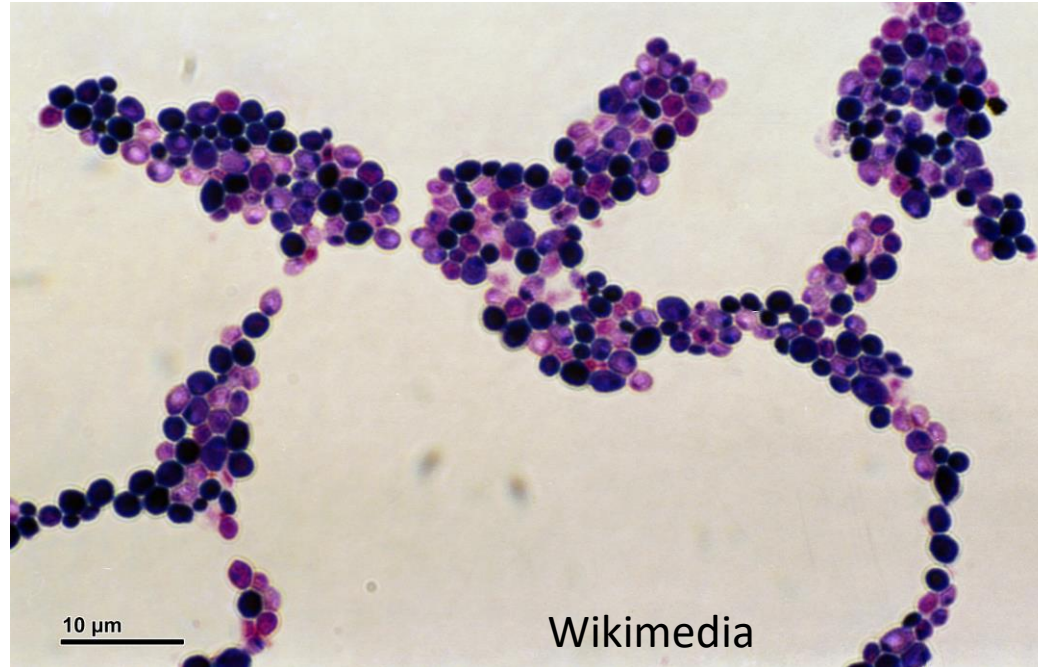
# *S. aureus* bacteraemia

- *S. aureus* in blood cultures is very rarely a contaminant
- Management in a nutshell:
  - high-dose iv flucloxacillin if sensitive
  - If MRSA, iv vancomycin/teicoplanin instead
  - Treat for **14 days, or more** if complicated
  - **Identify source**
    - If source is a biomaterial, needs to come out
  - watch out for endocarditis as a complication
    - Echo

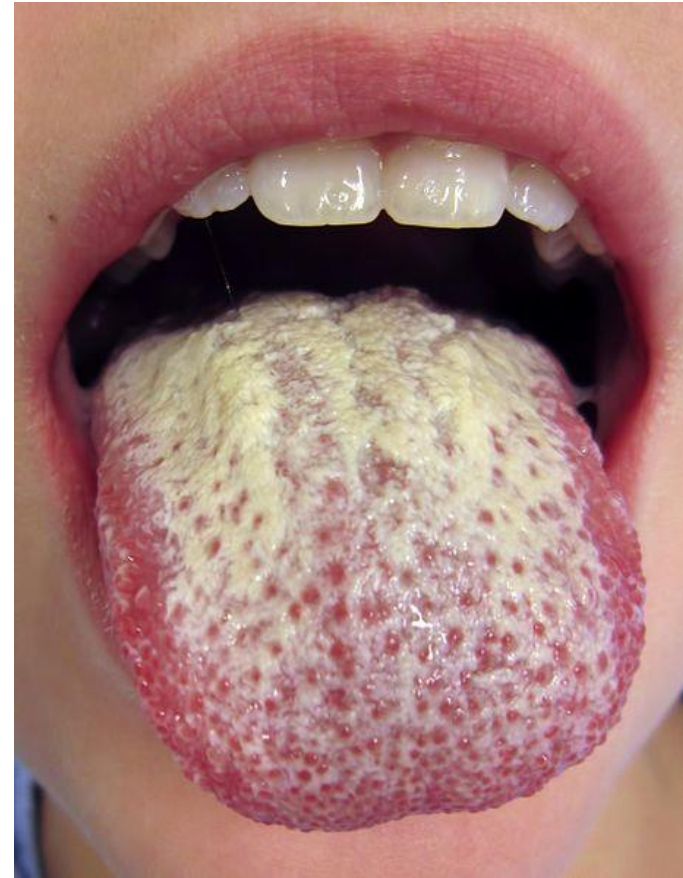
# Coagulase negative staph in a BC

- ?? Significance - clinical assessment
- repeat BC – is it persistent?
- Does the patient have
  - iv line?
  - Prosthetic/diseased heart valves?

# Candida sp



- Yeast
- *Candida albicans* vs non-albicans species (others)
  - Non-albicans tend to be more drug resistant esp. azoles



James Heilman, MD, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

# Candida in blood cultures: candidaemia

- Very rarely a contaminant
- Critical care
  - Source is usually an iv line
- Haematology/oncology
  - Source is usually either an iv line or the gut

# Management of candidaemia

- Antifungal treatment
- Manage line
- Further investigations



# Antifungal options in candidaemia

## Fluconazole

- If not had azoles before
- If species is albicans
- Non-neutropaenic and stable

## Liposomal amphotericin

### Caspofungin (an echinocandin)

- Species is non-albicans
- Neutropaenic
- Critically ill
- (Take advice from team or microbiologist)

# Candidaemia – further investigations

- Daily blood cultures until negative – treat for 14 days after BC negative
- ophthalmoscopy for eye lesions
- Exclude endocarditis – Echo is advisable

# Candida - line management

- Non-neutropaenic - remove line asap (consult team)
- Neutropaenic - remove line if at all possible - d/w team
  - Gut source is possible but v difficult to distinguish

# Candidaemia – useful guidance

- Infectious Disease Society of America 2016 update  
[cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/12/15/cid.civ933.full.pdf](http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/12/15/cid.civ933.full.pdf)
- European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 2012  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23137135>

Catheter related blood-stream  
infection: CR-BSI

- catheter-BSI are the most frequent infections in critical care units in UK.
- Catheter-BSI increase length of stay (LOS) in hospital and risk of complications
- Annual costs to the NHS estimated at £19.1–36.2M.
- Most catheter-BSI are thought to be preventable using evidence-based educational interventions

# Catheter related blood-stream infection: diagnosis

- Gold standard involves quantitative culture of catheter tip
  - Many unnecessary catheter removals
- Pragmatically, if catheter is still needed, take two blood culture sets:
  - through the line
  - peripherally

# Guidelines for the systemic treatment of catheter infections by pathogen

UK Medicines Information ([UKMI](#)) pharmacists for NHS healthcare professionals

Date prepared: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Infection	Catheter removal generally recommended	Recommended Antibiotics	Length of treatment
<i>S aureus (Methicillin-sensitive)</i>	Yes – failure to remove catheter leads to significant morbidity	Penicillinase-resistant penicillin	At least 14 days <sup>a</sup>
<i>S aureus (Methicillin-resistant)</i>	Yes – failure to remove catheter leads to significant morbidity	Glycopeptide, linezolid <sup>b</sup> (if glycopeptide resistance), daptomycin	At least 14 days <sup>a</sup>
<i>Coagulase-negative staphylococci</i>	No	Penicillinase-resistant penicillin Glycopeptide <sup>c</sup> if methicillin resistance	5-7 days after defervescence <sup>d</sup> If line retained treat for 10-14 days
<i>Enterococci</i>	No	Aminopenicillin ± aminoglycoside Or glycopeptide ± aminoglycoside if ampicillin resistance	5-14 days after defervescence
<i>Candida albicans</i>	Yes	Azole, echinocandin or amphotericin –b lipid based formulation	Treat for 14 days following first negative blood culture <sup>a</sup>
Others	Dependent on pathogen	As per sensitivity	Dependent on pathogen

<sup>a</sup>Consider treatment for 4-6 weeks in patients at risk of endocarditis or with persistent bacteremia or fungemia 72 hours after initiation of appropriate antimicrobials, or removal of the catheter. In confirmed endocarditis or osteomyelitis consider up to 8 week's antimicrobial therapy .

<sup>b</sup>Linezolid should not be used for empirical therapy

<sup>c</sup> Vancomycin is preferred if there is local teicoplanin resistance

<sup>d</sup> defervescence – return to normal temperature



# Risk factors

- Catheter-BSI most often result from inadequate hygiene and suboptimal catheter management procedures, including:
  - inadequate **hand hygiene** by hospital staff
  - inadequate **skin hygiene** at the site of patients' catheter insertion
  - **suboptimal location** of catheters
  - **unnecessary placement** of catheters
- patient's age
- underlying disease
- duration of catheterisation

# Recommended evidence-based practices

- Selection of an appropriate catheter type
- Avoid the femoral insertion site
- antimicrobial cleansing of the insertion site
- maximal sterile barrier precautions and aseptic technique (gloves, mask, hat, patient drapes) during catheter insertion
- use of a sterile semipermeable transparent dressing to allow observation of the insertion site
- NHS has developed 'Saving Lives' tools, which include 'high-impact' care bundles for CVCs and peripheral intravenous cannulae
  - stress the importance of staff education